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Agenda items 66 (s) and (v), 68 (d), 101 and 160

General and complete disarmament: nuclear disarmament; the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session: report of the Conference on Disarmament

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 20 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you the Almaty Act, signed by the Heads of State or Government of the member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia in Almaty, on 4 June 2002 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 66 (s) and (v), 68 (d), 101 and 160, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Madina B. **Jarbussynova**

02-60354 (E) 300902

Annex to the letter dated 20 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Russian]

Almaty Act

Preamble

We, the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA),

Having met in Almaty at a time of profound changes which are taking place in Asia and the world to set up our vision of security in Asia and enhance our capabilities for co-operation on issues of common concern for our peoples;

Recognising the close link between peace, security and stability in Asia and in the rest of the world;

Committing ourselves to working to ensure peace and security in Asia and making it a region open to dialogue and co-operation;

Believing that the CICA process presents new opportunities for co-operation, peace and security in Asia;

Declaring our determination to form in Asia a common and indivisible area of security, where all states peacefully co-exist, and their peoples live in conditions of peace, freedom and prosperity, and confident that peace, security and development complement, sustain and reinforce each other;

Reaffirming our commitment to the UN Charter, as well as to the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations Among CICA Member States, which is an integral part of the Almaty Act, as the basis for our future co-operation;

Considering that all aspects of comprehensive security in Asia, including its political and military aspects, confidence-building measures, economic and environmental issues, humanitarian and cultural co-operation, are interdependent and interrelated and should be pursued actively;

Confident that full, equal and comprehensive implementation and observance of the principles, provisions and commitments enshrined in the Almaty Act will create the conditions for advanced co-operation among the CICA Member States and will guide us towards a better future, which our peoples deserve;

Have adopted the following:

I. Security and co-operation

1. The main objective and thrust of the CICA will be to enhance co-operation through elaborating multilateral approaches towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.

2. In order to achieve this objective, the Member States will take the necessary steps to develop the CICA as a forum for dialogue, consultations and adoption of decisions and measures on the basis of consensus on security issues in Asia.

3. We call upon and continue to encourage all Member States who are parties to a dispute to settle this peacefully in conformity with the principles envisaged in the UN Charter.

4. Recognising the contribution which increased trade and economic co-operation can make for the prosperity and stability in Asia and to the well-being of their peoples, we will make further efforts to promote initiatives in these fields, as mentioned in the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States. We also recognise the need for better co-operation on all issues which constitute risks to the environment.

5. The Member States reiterate their belief that protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the UN Charter and the international conventions and instruments to which they are parties contributes to the consolidation of peace, security and stability in Asia. They also declare their readiness to further their co-operation in this field in a spirit of friendliness.

6. We consider that humanitarian issues, such as natural disasters and refugee flows, are areas of common concern since they also affect stability and security in the region. The Member States are resolved to developing measures, where necessary, to address these issues through co-operation in the region as well as with the UN and other relevant international organisations.

7. We believe that enhancing mutual respect, mutual understanding and tolerance in the relations among civilisations is an important goal for our times. Noting with satisfaction the designation of the first year of the millennium as the year of Dialogue among Civilisations, we shall encourage and strengthen this process.

8. We consider globalisation as a challenge of our time. While it could offer certain opportunities for growth and development, at present the benefits of globalisation are unevenly shared among the nations and much remains to be done to ensure that its benefits be comprehensively and equitably distributed at the global level.

9. Joint actions and co-ordinated responses are necessary to deal with challenges and threats that our states and peoples are faced with.

II. Challenges to security

10. The Member States seek to promote regional and international security and stability, which will also contribute to peaceful settlement of existing and prevention of the emergence of new crisis situations and disputes.

11. The continuing existence and proliferation in all its aspects of nuclear weapons, as well as chemical and biological weapons, pose a great threat to all humanity. The Member States pledge to support the efforts for the global elimination of all weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and therefore they commit themselves to an increased co-operation for the prevention of proliferation of all such weapons, including nuclear weapons, which constitute a particular danger to international peace and security.

12. With the end of the Cold War, the opportunity now exists for the international community to pursue nuclear disarmament as a matter of the highest priority. We shall encourage all nations to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibilities of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers and negotiating a comprehensive and verifiable nuclear weapons convention. We affirm the importance of the early realisation of the universal adherence to the multilaterally negotiated instruments on the elimination of WMD, and urge those states not yet party to these instruments to accede to them as soon as possible.

13. We support the establishment of zones free from nuclear weapons and other WMD in Asia on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the states of the region concerned. The establishment of such zones in regions for which consensus resolutions of the UN General Assembly exist, such as the Middle East and Central Asia, should be encouraged; in this context, we invite adherence to internationally negotiated disarmament and non-proliferation instruments in accordance with all the provisions of the relevant consensus resolutions of the UN and the positions of states concerned on the implementation of these resolutions.

14. The Member States reaffirm their belief in the need of ensuring security at the lowest level of armament and military forces. We recognise the necessity to curb excessive and destabilising accumulation of conventional armaments. We emphasise the importance of the maintenance of the international strategic stability to world peace and security and to the continued progress of arms control and disarmament. We emphasise the importance of multilateral negotiations on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

15. We believe that direct or indirect threat or use of force in violation of the UN Charter and international law against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the states; denial of the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under foreign occupation (a right which has to be exercised in accordance with the UN Charter and international law); interference in the internal affairs of states and offensive strategic doctrines pose threats to regional and international peace.

16. The Member States unconditionally and unequivocally condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as well as any support or acquiescence to it and the failure to directly condemn it. The threat posed by terrorism has been increasingly growing over the last decade. Terrorism in all its forms is a trans-national threat, which endangers the lives of individuals and peoples and undermines the territorial integrity, unity, sovereignty and security of states. The menace of terrorism has been magnified by its close links with drug trafficking, illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) and their transfers in any form to terrorist groups, racist ideologies, separatism, all forms of extremism which present basic sources of financing and providing manpower for terrorist activities. We regard as criminal all acts, methods and practices of terrorism and declare our determination to co-operate on bilateral as well as multilateral basis to combat terrorism including its possible sources. In order to eradicate this menace to peace and security, we shall reinforce and unite our efforts in order not to allow terrorism in any form to be prepared, assisted, launched and financed from the territory of any state and we shall refuse to provide terrorists with safe haven and protection.

17. We recognise that implementation of the UN Conventions will contribute to tackling the problems of terrorism and support the elaboration of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

18. Separatism is one of the main threats and challenges to the security and stability, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of states. The Member States shall not support on the territory of another Member State any separatist movements and entities, and, if such emerge, not to establish political, economic and other kinds of relations with them, not to allow the territories and communications of the Member States to be used by the above-mentioned movements and entities, and not to render them any kind of economic, financial and other assistance. We reaffirm the right of people living under foreign occupation for self-determination in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

19. We reject the use of religion as a pretext by terrorists and separatist movements and groups to achieve their objectives. We also reject all forms of extremism and will work to promote tolerance among our nations and peoples.

20. Illicit drug trafficking represents a major threat to internal and international stability and security of our states and our continent as a whole as well as to the well-being of our peoples. This problem is closely linked with the socio-economic and political situation in several regions, terrorist activities across the world, and international criminal groups engaged in trans-national crime, money laundering and illicit SALW trafficking. We recognise that there are several states in Asia which require priority attention and assistance by the international community in order to combat drug trafficking. We also recognise the need for effective strategies to reduce production, supply and demand for drugs. In this respect, we will co-operate to monitor suspicious financial flows, including issues related to incomes and transparency of bank operations in accordance with the existing international legal instruments, and to identify the sources of production, consumption and trafficking of drugs. In order to assist the practical implementation of these tasks, multinational training courses and exercises as well as exchange of information among the competent authorities of the Member States will be promoted. We also call upon major consuming countries to play a more active role in providing equipment, training and educational courses, rehabilitation, technical and financial assistance to Asian drug producing and transit countries. Adoption and implementation of crop substitution plans and alternative development strategies in drug producing regions in Asia should also be encouraged to tackle the menace of illicit drugs more effectively.

21. We also recognise corruption as a trans-national crime which calls for concerted multilateral action. In this regard, we emphasise the need for banning the transfer of illicit funds and wealth and also the need for enhanced international co-operation in tracing and repatriating such assets.

22. The Member States recognise that illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons poses a threat to peace and security and is directly linked with terrorist activity, separatist movements, drug trafficking and armed conflicts. In this context, we underline the importance of the Firearms Protocol reached in the framework of the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Programme of Action adopted by the UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects which was held in New York in July 2001.

23. We are determined to co-operate with each other on bilateral and multilateral basis to prevent such threats to peace and security in Asia.

III. Confidence Building Measures

24. In the context of achieving CICA objectives, we will take the necessary steps for the elaboration and implementation of measures aimed at enhancing co-operation and creating an atmosphere of peace, confidence and friendship. Such measures should be in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, CICA, and international law. In doing so, we will take into account specific features and characteristics in various regions in Asia and proceed on a gradual and voluntary basis.

25. We encourage all states in the region having disputes to make efforts to solve their disputes peacefully through negotiations in accordance with the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and international law. We recognise that the resolution of territorial and other disputes and implementation of arms control agreements may, depending upon specific situations, facilitate implementation of confidence building measures (CBMs); on the other hand, we also recognise that implementation of CBMs may, depending upon specific situations, facilitate, or create a conducive climate for, the resolution of disputes and arms control agreements.

26. We recognise that disarmament and arms control, universality of all internationally negotiated instruments on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, promoting non-proliferation, have a significant role in enhancing confidence building among regional states. We affirm that being a State Party to the relevant internationally negotiated instruments should not be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all parties to those treaties to develop research, production and use of nuclear technology, chemical and biological materials and equipment for peaceful purposes in accordance with the provisions of these instruments. We reiterate the importance of negative security assurances to the non-nuclear-weapon states and express our readiness to consider further steps on this subject which could take the form of an internationally legally binding instrument.

27. The Member States will prepare with mutual agreement a "CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures" and proceed on a gradual basis for its implementation. The Catalogue, which will be regularly reviewed and further developed, may include, among others, measures in the military–political, economic and environmental, humanitarian and cultural spheres.

IV. Structure and institutions of CICA

28. In order to facilitate its efficient functioning, we have decided to provide for CICA the necessary structure and institutions, consisting mainly of the following:

1. Regular meetings

29. The meetings of the Heads of State or Government will be convened every four years in order to conduct consultations, review the progress of, and set priorities for CICA activities. Special meetings may be convened as necessary by consensus. Summit meetings will be preceded by meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

30. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs will meet every two years. Their meetings will be the central forum for consultations and examination of all issues related to CICA activities. Special meetings may be convened as necessary by consensus.

31. The Committee of Senior Officials will meet at least once a year to follow-up on previous CICA decisions, carry out consultations on the current CICA issues, oversee the work of Special Working Groups and co-ordinate the work of other meetings. The Committee will also make the necessary preparations for the organisation of the Summit and ministerial meetings, including elaboration of draft documents.

32. Special Working Groups will be established to study specific issues relevant to CICA's areas of interest and to carry out the tasks mandated to them. They will submit the results of their work to the Committee of Senior Officials.

2. Specialised meetings

33. The Member States may agree to convene meetings of other ministers or of the competent national agencies and institutions in order to discuss issues of a specific and/or technical nature.

3. Academic and professional inputs

34. Opportunities will be provided as necessary for academic and professional inputs and reports, as well as assistance and contributions to publications which CICA may decide to produce.

4. Secretariat

35. In order to provide follow-up and administrative support for regular meetings and political consultations and other activities mentioned in the Almaty Act, we support the establishment of a Secretariat of the CICA. We task our Ministers of Foreign Affairs to finalise the elaboration of all aspects related to the establishment of the Secretariat.

Done in Almaty, June 4, 2002

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 160
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 19 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement made by Mr. Felipe Pérez Roque, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, in reply to the false and slanderous remarks made by Mr. Daniel W. Fisk, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State of the United States of America, accusing Cuba of impeding the efforts to combat terrorism.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 160, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bruno **Rodríguez Parrilla**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-60471 (E) 260902 260902

Annex to the letter dated 19 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Spanish]

STATEMENT BY THE CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER, FELIPE PEREZ ROQUE, ON THE ACCUSATIONS MADE BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DANIEL W. FISK

- Cuba firmly rejects the cynical statements made by Mr. Fisk.
- Mr. Fisk is lying with impudence. His words are degrading.
- All of his accusations against Cuba are false and slanderous. It is a colossal lie, just like when they fabricated that Cuba was a terrorist State and that we were producing biological weapons.
- I accuse Mr. Fisk, Deputy Assistant Secretary and former assistant to Senator Helms, of being a liar always ready to serve the minority interest of a group of Cuban extremists in Miami.
- I challenge Mr. Fisk to produce a single piece of evidence to support his allegations.
- From 29 November 2001 through 12 March 2002, Cuba insisted on several occasions on its proposals to sign cooperation agreements to fight drug trafficking, alien smuggling and terrorism at the bilateral level. The three were rejected. I want to be emphatic: Cuba repeatedly proposed to the US Government that a bilateral agreement be signed to engage in cooperation in the fight against terrorism and the US Government refused.
- I accuse Mr. Fisk of being irresponsible.
- I believe it is incomprehensible to speculate in this reckless manner with the memory of the victims of the ruthless terrorist attack of 11 September.
- It is unjustifiable to deceive the American people and the international public opinion with the sole purpose of maintaining an outdated and ridiculous policy towards Cuba – that is, the blockade that has been in force for over 40 years now.
- An issue as serious and essential to all of us as international cooperation in the fight against terrorism should not be manipulated for political purposes.
- There is no argument to justify the irrational rejection by the Bush Administration of Cuba's proposal to sign bilateral agreements to combat terrorism, drug trafficking and illegal migration.
- The US Government is desperately grasping at a straw with Mr. Fisk's statements by trying to confuse the public opinion that is already convinced of the failure of the blockade against Cuba.
- The US Government is trying to prevent the adoption of amendments in the Senate that were already overwhelmingly endorsed in the House – to allow travel by Americans to Cuba and the unrestricted sale of food and medicine to Cuba.

I will mention some examples to show that Mr. Fisk is lying:

1. Cuba strongly condemned the terrorist crime of 11 September. Cuba offered medical assistance, assistance in the rehabilitation of the victims and its airports to be used at that moment.
2. On 26 October, Cuba offered to the US Government, right in the middle of the crisis, the supply of 100 million tablets of ciprofloxacine (an antibiotic against anthrax). There was no response.
3. On 27 October, Cuba donated 100 tablets of ciprofloxacine to the diplomatic staff of the US Interests Section in Havana.
4. On 12 November, Cuba offered equipment developed in our country (effective in terms of time involved and low cost) in order to screen germs and break up anthrax strains.

We have more than enough elements of judgment to reveal the lie, but on account of discretion and confidentiality I will not raise them.

I hereby challenge Mr. Fisk to rebut these statements.

I reaffirm that it is a lie and that the Deputy Assistant Secretary is a liar.

United Nations A/57/425

General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 66
General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 23 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a communiqué (see annex) issued on 13 September by the Foreign Ministers of the New Agenda Coalition countries (Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden) following a meeting in which the Ministers reviewed progress on their joint initiative, entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the need for a new agenda".

I would be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 66: "General and complete disarmament".

(*Signed*) Richard **Ryan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-60480 (E) 260902

Annex to the letter dated 23 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Ministerial Declaration by the New Agenda Coalition in the margins of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly

13 September 2002

The Foreign Ministers of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden, meeting at the fifty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly, reviewed developments on nuclear disarmament.

The New Agenda Ministers expressed their dissatisfaction at the lack of progress in implementing the undertakings made by States Parties at the 2000 Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The New Agenda Ministers reaffirmed their view that the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons is incompatible with the non-proliferation regime and with the broader goal of promoting international peace and security.

Ministers acknowledged that reductions in the numbers of deployed strategic nuclear warheads envisaged by the Treaty of Moscow represent a positive step in the process of nuclear de-escalation between the United States of America and the Russian Federation. At the same time, they stressed that reductions in the deployment and operational status of nuclear weapons cannot be a substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of, these weapons.

They expressed concern at new approaches to the broader role of nuclear weapons as part of security strategies, including the development of new types of weapons.

The New Agenda Ministers urged the international community to intensify its efforts to achieve universal adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. They called on India, Pakistan and Israel to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear weapons States and to place their facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

Ministers stressed that the current cycle for review of the Treaty would need to take stock of the implementation of the commitments of the 1995 and 2000 review conferences.

In this regard, they recalled the position paper which the New Agenda Coalition had submitted to the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty and looked forward to developing the ideas contained therein.

To contribute further to the goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the Foreign Ministers announced their intention to table a draft resolution at the current session of the General Assembly. They expressed the hope that the resolution would attract widespread support.

The Ministers of the New Agenda Coalition announced that they would also be submitting a specific draft resolution to the General Assembly on prioritizing further cuts in non-strategic nuclear weapons.

United Nations A/57/426

General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 84 (f)
Macroeconomic policy questions: preparations for the International Ministerial Meeting on Transit Transport Cooperation

Letter dated 23 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the ministerial communiqué adopted at the Third Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held on 17 September 2002 in New York (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 84 (f): "Preparation for the International Ministerial Meeting on Transit Transport Cooperation".

(*Signed*) Alounkeo **Kittikhoun**
Chairman of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries

02-60532 (E) 270902

Annex to the letter dated 23 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Communiqué of the Third Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, New York, 17 September 2002

We, the Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries, having met on 17 September 2002 at the sideline of the 57th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Millennium Declaration, which recognizes the special needs and problems of landlocked developing countries, and urges both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their special development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography and by improving their transit transportation system;

Welcoming the decision by the General Assembly contained in its Resolution 56/180 of 24 January 2002, to convene an International Ministerial Meeting of Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (IMM) in 2003,

Welcoming also the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, where the international community agreed on measures for financing the development of developing countries, in particular, to the Landlocked Developing Countries.

Recalling the Ministerial Communiqués adopted at the First and Second Annual Ministerial Meetings of Land-locked Developing Countries on September 18, 2000 and November 14, 2001 respectively in New York,

1. Attach the highest priority to the International Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Representatives of International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation to be held in 2003, and in this regard welcome the generous offer made by the Government of Kazakhstan to host this Meeting in Almaty, and request the General Assembly to adopt relevant decisions at its 57th session accordingly.

2. Believe strongly that the International Ministerial Meeting should adopt a global programme of action with a view to minimizing constraints caused by the lack of territorial access to the sea, geographical remoteness and isolation from world markets, high economic development cost and by prohibitive transit costs. This should contribute to the speedy attainment by the landlocked developing countries of the United Nations goals and targets on poverty eradication, sustainable development and their effective participation in the world economy.

3. View that, as the first United Nations conference of this kind, the outcome of the IMM would be judged against its success in generating high visibility to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing

countries, building up a global consensus on policies and measures to establish efficient transit systems, and mobilizing strong international support to landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours in achieving the above objectives. The IMM should address the special development needs of the landlocked developing countries in a holistic manner and formulate concrete measures to develop effective transit systems in landlocked and transit developing countries.

4. Believe that the success of the International Ministerial Meeting rests on its effective preparation and full involvement of all stakeholders including governments, international organizations of the UN system as well as regional economic cooperation organizations, and professional bodies, multilateral financial institutions and private sectors in their respective mandates and comparative advantages. The International Ministerial Meeting should be regarded as a UN system-wide undertaking, therefore, the full involvement of these stakeholders will be crucial in the preparatory process as it will enable them to carry out their respective responsibilities for the preparation of and fulfill relevant commitments arising from the International Ministerial Meeting. The Group of Landlocked Developing Countries will actively participate in all stages of its preparatory process.

5. Emphasize that the development of transit systems is a multifaceted complex endeavour. It encompasses political, legal, developmental and financial aspects at bilateral, regional and global levels and involves different stakeholders. Thus, we attach utmost priority to a highly visible, efficient and well-coordinated preparatory process.

6. Believe deeply that the efficient transit systems will only be established through cooperative arrangements at all levels. Therefore, in the preparatory process, appropriate measures to improve transit systems at all levels should be considered. In this context, the regional commissions such the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Latin America in close cooperation with the OHRLLS, UNCTAD and the World Bank, have a leading role to play in providing effective preparations, which must be completed by March 2003 to provide sufficient time for the first session of the preparatory committee to be held in June 2003.

7. Welcome the establishment of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the recent appointment of the High Representative with renewed hope and great satisfaction. The Office of the High Representative should be responsible for providing the overall coordination, advocacy and political support for the preparation and organization of the International Ministerial Meeting in close cooperation with and the full involvement of the UNCTAD secretariat, as appropriate, and in collaboration with other UN system stakeholders including the regional commissions, UNDP and the World Bank, as well as other

relevant international organizations such as World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization and the regional development banks.

8. Emphasize also the strong and continued support of UNCTAD secretariat, in particular the Office of the Special Coordinator for the Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries, in addressing specific problems related to Landlocked Developing Countries. In this context, we underscore the experience and comparative advantage of the UNCTAD secretariat in substantive and technical aspects of transit transport. We call on the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to extend his assistance in providing substantive and technical assistance to the International Ministerial Meeting and its preparatory process, in the areas of its competence including international trade, investment for infrastructure development and trade facilitation.

9. Stress also the importance of mobilizing adequate extra-budgetary resources to support the preparatory activities and facilitate the participation of representatives of landlocked developing countries and their transit partners at the International Ministerial Meeting and its preparatory meetings including those at the sub-regional and regional levels. To this end, we welcome the recent launching by the Secretary-General of the campaign to mobilize extra-budgetary resources.

10. Invite the donor countries and international financial and development institutions to actively participate in and provide financial and technical support to the preparatory process and the International Ministerial Meeting.

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Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 24 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 24 September 2002, addressed to you by Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Umit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-60556 (E) 270902

Annex to the letter dated 24 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 27 August 2002 (A/56/1030-S/2002/967) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative to the United Nations, which contain allegations of "violations of the airspace of the Republic" and "of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia".

It will be recalled that similar allegations of so-called "airspace and FIR violations" were refuted in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in the letter dated 17 July 2002 (A/56/1007-S/2002/781). I wish to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever. Furthermore, it should be underlined that allegations of so-called violations of the flight information region or violations of air-traffic regulations are void and groundless under international law. Every precaution is being taken for the safety of navigation of civil air traffic during the activities of Turkish State aircraft within international airspace, within which the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services.

As stated in my previous letters, such allegations are based on the false and illegitimate claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This claim by the Greek Cypriot side is divorced from the existing realities in Cyprus, namely, the existence of two independent States, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territories on the island.

In spite of the clear necessity to refrain from actions which exacerbate the lack of confidence between the two sides in Cyprus and thus reduce the chances of reconciliation, the Greek Cypriot administration is engaged in a massive military build-up in South Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriot press reported on 13 August 2002 that the Greek Cypriot Defence Minister, Mr. Hasikos, in a statement made on 12 August 2002 at a commemoration ceremony, did not hesitate to state that, within the framework of the "Joint Military Doctrine" signed between the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece, they would continue to arm secretly. Furthermore, the Greek Cypriot newspapers reported that, as part of its military build-up, the Greek Cypriot administration is continuing in its efforts to purchase multi-purpose assault helicopters. In this context, it is in contact with the Russian Kamov, French Eurocopter and United States Sikorsky firms with a view to purchasing more sophisticated helicopters.

I would like to note that the military activities of the Greek Cypriot side are taking place at the time of the ongoing direct talks between the two States in Cyprus, on the basis of the agreement reached between President Denktaş and the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Clerides, on 4 December 2001 (S/2001/1162, annex). Let us hope that the Greek Cypriot administration will refrain from taking any further action which would hamper the prospects of achieving progress through the current

phase of the talks. At this crucial stage, it is all the more pertinent that the Greek Cypriot administration cease all hostile and provocative activities and adopt a constructive stance, which would facilitate progress towards a comprehensive settlement between the two States.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations A/57/428

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 16
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections

Election of twenty members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

Note by the Secretary-General*

1. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976 and General Assembly decision 42/450 of 17 December 1987, the members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination are nominated by the Economic and Social Council and elected by the General Assembly.

2. The membership of the Committee in 2002 is as follows (see General Assembly decision 56/308 of 22 October 2001):

Argentina,** Bahamas,*** Bangladesh,** Botswana,*** Brazil,** Cameroon,** China,**** Cuba,** Ethiopia,*** France,*** Gabon,** Germany,** Indonesia,** Iran (Islamic Republic of),** Italy,** Japan,**** Mauritania,** Mexico,*** Nigeria,**** Pakistan,** Peru,** Poland,** Portugal,** Republic of Korea,**** Republic of Moldova,** Russian Federation,*** San Marino,** Tunisia,**** Ukraine,** United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,** United Republic of Tanzania,*** United States of America,*** Uruguay**** and Zimbabwe.**

3. The General Assembly, at its fifty-seventh session, will be called upon to elect twenty members, on the nomination of the Economic and Social Council, to fill the vacancies in the Committee that will occur on 31 December 2002 upon the expiration of the terms of office of Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Cuba, Gabon, Germany, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Mauritania, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zimbabwe.

* Final candidates were nominated by the Economic and Social Council on 26 July 2002.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 2002.

*** Term of office expires on 31 December 2003.

**** Term of office expires on 31 December 2004.

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4. In accordance with Assembly decision 42/450, the vacancies are to be filled as follows:

(a) Four members from African States;

(b) Four members from Asian States;

(c) Three members from Eastern European States;

(d) Four members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Five members from Western European and other States.

5. By its decisions 2002/201 B of 29 April 2002 and 2002/201 C of 26 July 2002, the Economic and Social Council nominated the following Member States for election by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, for a term of three years beginning on 1 January 2003: Argentina, Armenia, Benin, Brazil, Central African Republic, Cuba, Gabon, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Monaco, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Republic of Moldova, South Africa, Ukraine and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The geographical distribution of the nominated Member States is as follows:

(a) African States (four vacancies): Benin, Central African Republic, Gabon, South Africa;

(b) Asian States (four vacancies): India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan;

(c) Eastern European States (three vacancies): Armenia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine;

(d) Latin American and Caribbean States (four vacancies): Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Nicaragua;

(e) Western European and other States (five vacancies):[1] Germany, Monaco, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

[1] By decision 2002/201 C, the Economic and Social Council postponed the nomination of two members from Western European and other States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2003.

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Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 25 September 2002. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.1 and 2). An addendum to the present report will reflect the further consideration of the item by the Committee during the fifty-seventh session.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a letter dated 27 June 2002 from the Acting President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/56/46), transmitting a letter dated 21 June 2002 from the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions to the President of the General Assembly.

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.2

4. At the 2nd meeting, on 25 September 2002, the representative of Pakistan, coordinator of the informal consultations on this question, introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations" (A/C.5/57/L.2).

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5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.2, without a vote (see para. 7).

6. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Burundi (see A/C.5/57/SR.2).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/237 C of 23 December 1999,

Having considered the letter dated 27 June 2002 from the Acting President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee transmitting a letter dated 21 June 2002 from the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions regarding the recommendations of that Committee on requests for exemption under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations,[1]

Reaffirming the obligation of Member States under Article 17 of the Charter to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly,

1. *Reaffirms* its role in accordance with the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations and the advisory role of the Committee on Contributions in accordance with rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

2. *Agrees* that the failure of the Comoros, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of Moldova, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia and Tajikistan to pay the full minimum amount necessary to avoid the application of Article 19 of the Charter was due to conditions beyond their control;

3. *Decides* that the Comoros, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of Moldova, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia and Tajikistan should be permitted to vote in the General Assembly until 30 June 2003;

4. *Also decides*, while welcoming the undertaking and assurances provided by the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations, to permit Burundi to vote in the General Assembly until the next substantive session of the Committee on Contributions, scheduled to be held from 2 June 2003.

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[1] A/C.5/56/46.